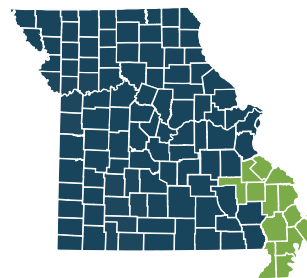


SOUTHEAST REGION

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

JANUARY 2025



Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most
annual total job openings

over 2,200

Healthcare Support Occupations

Most grade A and B annual
openings

over 2,000

Healthcare Support Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs
Concentration

96%

Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on its outlook over the next decade. Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and current average wages. Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Southeast region is projected to have over 17,700 annual job openings through 2032. The vast majority (87%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations have higher wages and growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 60 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations in the region in 2023 (\$47,951).

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A

2,289 Job Openings
\$76,742 Average Wage

Grade B

7,722 Job Openings
\$48,226 Average Wage

Grade C

5,401 Job Openings
\$39,951 Average Wage

Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	2,211	909	41%
Healthcare Support Occupations	2,158	2,062	96%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1,992	1,842	92%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	1,917	925	48%
Sales and Related Occupations	1,880	641	34%
Production Occupations	1,302	345	26%
Management Occupations	937	645	69%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	741	631	85%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	656	284	43%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	633	430	68%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	563	321	57%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	520	88	17%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	504	321	64%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	440	294	67%

Southeast Region Top Grade Jobs

Now Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	Home Health and Personal Care Aides 🔥	1,484	11.5%	\$29,962
B+	Stockers and Order Fillers 🔥	563	3.9%	\$35,616
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	434	-1.1%	\$35,018
B	Office Clerks, General	367	2.7%	\$39,691
B	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand 🔥	335	4.6%	\$36,565
B	Fast Food and Counter Workers 🔥	323	-1.5%	\$28,481
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	239	5.5%	\$39,343
B	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	229	-1.3%	\$32,121
B	Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	182	1.5%	\$29,906
B	Packers and Packagers, Hand	122	4.0%	\$36,121

Next Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Nursing Assistants 🔥	386	6.6%	\$33,462
B+	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	373	-1.9%	\$51,647
B+	Cooks, Restaurant 🔥	239	-3.3%	\$31,275
B+	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General 🔥	176	4.9%	\$44,681
B	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers 🔥	165	-3.1%	\$36,903
B+	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics 🔥	110	7.2%	\$43,805
B	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers 🔥	100	3.7%	\$56,224
B+	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses 🔥	98	7.4%	\$52,091
B+	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers 🔥	94	4.3%	\$64,496
B	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products 🔥	90	0.7%	\$65,566

Later Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	General and Operations Managers 🔥	345	1.7%	\$85,050
A+	Registered Nurses 🔥	268	8.6%	\$71,591
B	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	104	-2.8%	\$49,438
B	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	98	-2.9%	\$62,143
B	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	82	-3.1%	\$47,175
B+	Accountants and Auditors	74	5.5%	\$66,808
B	Human Resources Specialists	52	5.8%	\$57,827
B	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	50	7.1%	\$46,932
A+	Medical and Health Services Managers 🔥	41	8.6%	\$105,669
B+	Project Management Specialists	40	8.5%	\$77,897

🔥 Flame icon indicates occupations with the top 20 online job postings in 2023 within NNL (Now, Next, Later) categories.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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